

Dorset charity benefits from company support

Poole-based Siemens has helped the Dorset Blind Association to improve the quality of the transcription service that it offers across the County. Two donations totaling £650.00 have enabled the charity to fund much-needed equipment which is used by volunteers to transcribe and record written material onto tape, CDs and mp3s for the blind and partially-sighted people in the area to enjoy.

The material includes programmes for performance venues such as The Lighthouse, and the Bournemouth International Centre, annual reports and newsletters for Housing Associations, local newspapers such as Poole News and the Christchurch Courier, minutes of meetings, legal documents and audio menus for hospitals.

Commenting on the donation, James Isaacs at Siemens said: 'community spirit and diversity are very important to the company and our employees, and we are particularly committed to supporting and promoting groups that help disadvantaged people, such as the Dorset Blind Association, in areas where the company operates'.

Siemens has a long standing tradition of active involvement in the community and trying to 'make the world a better place'. As part of the company's Caring Hands programme Siemens donates funds to various charities throughout the year selected from organisations nominated by the company's staff members.

Continued/...

Siemens Mobility Division

Peter Preston
Tel: 01202 782390
Email: peter.preston@siemens.com

Press contact:

Julian Gollogly
Tel: 07770 924441
Email: julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com

The company's Charities Fund is managed by Siemens employees who give through payroll deduction and the company contributes a lump sum each year. The committee members meet 4 times a year to review applications for charitable donations for local organisations and felt the Dorset Blind Association was a very worthy cause. Sight loss is probably more widespread than most people appreciate. Throughout Dorset there are now more than 6,500 people registered as blind or partially sighted, and, it is widely recognised that the true number of people suffering from a serious and life debilitating sight loss could be a factor of three or even four times more.

The charity's main emphasis is to provide and deliver services directly into the community rather than expecting service users to come to it. This reflects and recognises the mobility issues faced by most visually impaired people caused, typically, not only by their sight loss but also by their age.

Photograph: audiomenus.jpg (Credit Becky Ward - Poole Hospital Medical) shows a patient at Poole Hospital using an audio menu that was produced by The Dorset Blind Association.

Kevin Bailey, Catering Services Manager, said: 'We would like to thank LV= for their kind donation of the CD players, as well as the excellent work carried out by Dorset Blind Association in creating the CDs and Braille menus. The implementation of an audio menu empowers patients and means they can make their own choices, in their own time, although help is always on hand in our wards to assist any patient with the completion of their menu when needed.'

**Siemens
Mobility Division**

Peter Preston
Tel: 01202 782390
Email: peter.preston@siemens.com

Press contact:

Julian Gollogly
Tel: 07770 924441
Email: julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com

Notes to editors:

Photograph: audiomenus.jpg (Credit Becky Ward - Poole Hospital Medical) shows a patient at Poole Hospital using an audio menu that was produced by The Dorset Blind Association.

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 166 years ago and now employs 18,402 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £3.7 billion. As a leading global engineering and technology services company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key sectors of energy, industry and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit www.siemens.co.uk

About Dorset Blind Association

The Dorset Blind Association is the local charity that provides support to people suffering from sight loss throughout the county. It was established in 1918 and celebrated its 90th anniversary last year.

It aims to provide practical help and support and through this work to help maintain healthy, independent living for as long as possible, notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight. The charity also tries to make sure that it provides services that are complementary to those provided by the statutory sector and which directly or indirectly support the work of Social Services and the hospital and health services.

Eleven members of core staff are supported by nearly 300 volunteers, and because there's no national funding support, as with all charities it is always seeking ways in which it can obtain both income and capital funding. This is particularly true now that it is providing support countywide rather than expecting people to come to them. For more information please visit www.dorsetblind.org.uk

Siemens Mobility Division

Peter Preston
Tel: 01202 782390
Email: peter.preston@siemens.com

Press contact:

Julian Gollogly
Tel: 07770 924441
Email: julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com